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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MONTHLY LETTER OF THE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

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AUGUST, 1917.

ROLL OF HONOR
BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY.

THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYEES OF THE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY AND THE FEDERAL HORTICULTURAL BOARD ARE VARIOUSLY DESIGNATED FOR THE MILITARY AND NAVAL SERVICE OF THE GOVERNMENT.

JOHN MONTEITH, JR.	T. R. CHAMBERLIN.	L. P. ROCKWOOD.
H. L. PARKER.	D. J. CAFFREY.	FRANK R. COLE.
G. D. PYLANT.	H. K. LARAMORE.	E. J. NEWCOMER.
T. S. WILSON.	J. J. CULVER.	J. C. EVENDON.
P. B. MILES.	G. N. WOLCOTT.	W. E. DOVE.
B. R. LEECH.	G. W. MARTIN.	H. B. GREAVES.
F. P. KEEN.	HARRY D. WHITLOCK.	O. F. CORK.
A. C. MASON.	L. J. HOGG.	R. H. BUSH.
R. L. DAILY.	MANUEL GARCIA.	

EXEMPTION OF DEPARTMENTAL EMPLOYEES
FROM MILITARY SERVICE.

The Secretary has considered fully the question of the exemption of departmental employees from military service. It has been decided that the Department will recommend exemptions to local boards only in few and very exceptional cases. Of nine men in the Bureau whose names were presented to the Secretary only one was approved for exemption. Any additional very special cases will be presented to the Secretary for decision, but Bureau employees should be guided by the fact that in a very great majority of cases exemption cannot be secured through departmental recommendation.

RECORDS OF EMPLOYEES ENTERING THE MILITARY SERVICE.

A memorandum issued by the Secretary of Agriculture on August 31, requires with reference to every employee entering the military service, a statement showing the branch of service he has entered such as, for example, the Officers' Reserve Corps, National army by draft, the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps by enlistment, National Guard, or the Naval Militia. If an employee enters the service in quasi-military capacity, such as clerk, that fact should be stated. All agents are requested to submit the data required by the Secretary promptly when any of the men leave the service.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR EMPLOYEES ENTERING THE MILITARY SERVICE.

On August 23 the Comptroller rendered a decision regarding the leave with pay to which employees entering the military service are entitled. This ruling is to the effect that annual leave with pay may be granted in accordance with the regulations of the Department, provided the combined amount of compensation received from this Department and from the War Department does not exceed an amount at the rate of two thousand dollars per annum. If the combined salary exceeds the rate indicated the payment of any compensation as an employee of the Department is prohibited by Section 6 of the act of May 10, 1916.

The compensation fixed for officers in training camps is not to exceed one hundred dollars per month. That amount is taken as the rate of compensation received by the employees of the Department while attending training camps.

It will be noted that the effect of this decision and the law to which it refers is to make it impossible for the Department to grant leave with pay to employees receiving salaries of more than eight hundred dollars per annum unless they enter branches of the service in which the compensation is at a rate of less than one hundred dollars per month.

A SUGGESTION FROM MR. FREDERICK KNAB.

It is understood that quite a number of our younger men will be called to the colors and in this connection I have a suggestion. It is that such men be asked to deposit with the National Museum such collections of insects as they may have, with the understanding that if they do not return the material becomes the property of the museum. Such collections would be with the museum on safe-deposit and it could be made plain that such collections would be inviolate until the return of the owner, or of definite news of his death. No doubt some of our men will have material that would be valuable and that will be lost unless some such arrangement as this I am suggesting is made. Some of the men may think that their collections contain nothing of particular interest, but this is not so. Any collection is sure to contain some things of particular interest, and even the common species are often useful for data of distribution, local variation, etc.

AUTHORS NAMES.

In further reference to my suggestions on the methods of reporting the names and the use of author's names, I think that it would be well worth while to call the attention of all the division chiefs and other people who submit material for determination of the desirability of supplying the author's name of the host of all species of parasites which they send in for determination. In my work in the Museum we are continually receiving material from all sources stating that the parasites are parasitic on - then they give the name of the insect, but never the author's name. Many times these species turn out to be new and in describing them it is

extremely desirable that the author's name of the host should be given, but as I pointed out in my previous letters, it is unwise for us to just look into the catalogue and find the author for the species. I think that all people sending in parasites for determination which are reared from a known host, should be specifically requested to supply the author of the host. It is not fair to the systematists that they should be expected to examine the catalogues to find the author, and it is extremely desirable that it should be given in case anything is published on the specimen submitted.

S. A. Rohwer,
Specialist in Forest Hymenoptera.

BACTERIA AND FUNGI INTRODUCED WITH FIELD MATERIAL IN REARING CAGES.

Bacterial and fungus diseases, introduced through the medium of material collected in the field, frequently appear as complications in the entomological rearings of all doing biological work. In the case of material reared in soil the infection is no doubt spread from one individual cage to another by repeated use of the receptacle into which the nidus with the specimen for investigation is spread for the periodical examination. The use of individual sheets of paper for the contents of each rearing cage has proved slow and cumbersome. An assistant at this station has devised a tin tray, 5" x 7", with a spout or projection from one corner for directing the soil into the two-ounce salve box used for a rearing cage. The sides of the tray are $\frac{1}{2}$ inch; $\frac{3}{4}$ inch would be better; and the spout placed in the center of the tray, with the approaches to it slanting would be a further advantage. The trays in use here are heavily enamaled and are dipped in a five per cent solution of mercuric bichloride after serving for the examination of each tray of forty-five cages; and after each encounter with material suspected of having died from bacterial or fungus disease. Since adopting this precaution the losses at this station have fallen from thirty per cent to two per cent among the Elaterid rearings.

W. B. Turner.

H.G. Barber of Roselle Park, N.J. spent considerable time during August in the Museum, checking up and rearranging collections of Lygaeidae.

Carl J. Drake, Instructor in Entomology, Syracuse Forestry School, spent three days during the first week in September in the Museum studying the collections of Tingidae and aquatic Hemiptera.

E. H. Gibson.

WEEVILS DESIRED BY DR. W.D.PIERCE.

Dr. W.D.Pierce finds several species of European origin among our Gymnaetron and Miarus and therefore desired to receive for study

material from all parts of the country. Gymnaetron breeds in the flowers of Verbascum and Linaria, and Miarus breeds in the flowers of Lobelia.

A GUIDE TO THE PREPARATION OF MANUSCRIPTS.

The Journal of Agricultural Research has issued recently an eight page booklet entitled "Preparation of Manuscripts for the Journal of Agricultural Research". Investigators who contemplate submitting manuscript for publication in the Journal will find this guide invaluable.

NEW BOOKS:

American Entomological Society. Memoirs No. 2. Philadelphia, 1917.
284 p. 10 pl.

Contents: The Blattidae of North America, by Morgan Hebard.

Arias, Jose M. El torsalo (*Dermatobia cyaniventris* Macq.) San Jose,
Costa Rica, 1917. 19p. illus. (Secretario de fomento,
Publicaciones del Departamento de Agricultura VII).

Colonial sugar refining company. Agricultural reports No.1-2.
Sydney, 1916-1917.

No.1. The sugar cane wireworm in Fiji, by Robert Veitch.
No.2. The hornet in Fiji, by Robert Veitch.

Ecological society of America. Bulletin v.1, no.1, January, 1917.
Tucson, Arizona.

Essig, E.O. Aphididae of California... Berkeley, July 20, 1917.
p.301-346. (Univ. of California, Technical bulletin. College
of Agr. and Agr.Exp.Sta. Entomology v.1, no.7)

Faes, H. Traitement effectif dans le Vignoble Vaudoise en 1916
contre le ver de la vigne (*Cochylis*). Lausanne, 1917. 23p.

Florida buggist v.1, no.1, June 21, 1917. Official organ of the
Florida entomological society, Gainesville, Florida.

Hind, H.L. and Randles, W.B. Handbook of photomicrography.
New York and London, 1913. 292p. illus.,pl.

Marshall, Guy A.K. Coleoptera-Rhynchophora-Curculionidae,
part I, London, Nov. 1916. 367p. illus. (Fauna of
British India, including Ceylon and Burma).

The Navy and Marine Corps register, January 1, 1917. Washington,
1917. 422p.

New South Wales Department of Agriculture. Farmers' bulletin No.113. Sydney, June, 1917. 37p. illus.

Contents: Sheep maggot flies, no.3, by W.W.Froggatt and F.J.Froggatt.

Sanderson, E.S. and Peairs, L.M. School entomology; and elementary textbook of entomology for secondary schools and agricultural short courses... 1st ed. New York, etc etc., 1917. 356p. illus. (Half title: The Wiley technical series for vocational and industrial schools ed. by J.M.Jameson.)

Swaine, J.M. Canadian bark beetles - part 1. Ottawa, 1917. 32p. (Canada.Dept.agr.Entom.Branch. Bul.14 (Tech.Bul.))

BEE CULTURE.

E. F. Phillips, Apiculturist in Charge.

Dr. E.F.Phillips left August 15 for a short vacation in the Adirondack region of New York State.

Mrs. M.A.Carter returned to duty August 13 after a leave of absence of two weeks.

Mr. G.S.DeMuth went to Blacksburg, Va. August 16 to attend a meeting of beekeepers held at that place during Farmers' Week. During this meeting the Virginia State Beekeepers' Association was organized.

SOUTHERN FIELD CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS.

W. D. Hunter, Entomologist in Charge.

W.A. Keleher for many years a valued employee of the Bureau died early in the month.

August Busck left Washington on August 20 for an extended trip through northern Mexico, to study the pink boll worm.

Dr.C.H.T. Townsend is on an extended trip in the southwest to determine the exact range of the Thurberia plant and the weevil which feeds upon it. Special attention will be paid to the possible occurrence of the plant and weevil in regions in which cotton is now planted or in which it may be planted some time in the future. Doctor Townsend started from Las Cruces in New Mexico early in July with a pack train and will explore the country as far as Globe, Arizona, before the end of the season.

W.E. Dove has entered the Officers' training camp at San Antonio, Texas.

F.C. Bishopp and E.W. Laake have completed a general trip of inspection to the larger meat packing establishments in the United States. This work is in cooperation with the Bureau of Animal Industry and has relation to the control of the house fly and other insects in establishments operating under federal supervision. Later Mr. Bishopp made a trip to the Pacific northwest returning to Dallas via Topaz, Calif., where Mr. Webb is engaged in the study of insects affecting the health of animals.

DECIDUOUS FRUIT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS.

A. L. Quaintance, Entomologist in Charge.

Dwight Isely, who has been engaged in investigations of grape insects, especially the grape-berry moth, at North East, Pa., has been transferred to the laboratory being established at Bentonville, Ark. Mr. Isely will give special attention to the study of apple insects in the Ozarks and will later be joined by H.G. Ingerson.

Wm.O.Ellis has been assigned to investigate the occurrence at Riverton, N.J., of the supposed Japanese beetle, Popillia japonica. This insect has recently attracted attention by reason of its injury to various plants, including members of the Vitis family.

J.J. Culver, who has been engaged in peach dusting and spraying experiments at Fort Valley, Ga., has been transferred to Monticello, Fla., where he will assist John B. Gill in pecan insect investigations. Mr. Culver will give special attention to various parasites attacking insects injurious to the pecan.

A.J.Fabis has been transferred from the Monticello, Fla., laboratory, where he has been assisting John B. Gill in pecan insect investigations, and will have charge of the newly established laboratory at Brownwood, Texas, where investigations will be carried out with pecan insects in that region.

Warren D. Whitcomb, recently appointed in the Bureau, is visiting various points in the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains, assisting merchants and jobbers in the treatment of chestnuts for the destruction of chestnut weevils, this work being a part of the activities on chestnut weevils and other nut insects under the immediate direction of A.J. Flebut.

FEDERAL HORTICULTURAL BOARD.

C. L. MARLATT, CHAIRMAN.

A bill will probably be considered by the Texas legislature now in special session providing for the establishment of a cotton-free zone to include the counties bordering on Mexico, such zone to be administered in cooperation with the Federal Horticultural Board of this Department.

An insect menace of considerable interest to citrus growers, particularly those of Florida, is the spiny citrus "white" fly, (Aleurocanthus woglumi). This insect, probably originating in India, has obtained a strong foothold in Cuba during the last few years, and may easily reach Florida by means of fruits or plants imported from Cuba. Harold Morrison, who is now in Cuba, is making a thorough investigation of this insect in Cuba and adjacent islands to provide adequate information for necessary quarantine or regulatory action.

R. Kent Beattie, Chief Pathological Inspector, Federal Horticultural Board, has recently returned from a trip to the Texas border to investigate the inspection and quarantine border service, his familiarity with car and freight control in connection with the potato quarantine in Maine a few years ago especially equipping him to be the representative of the Board for this investigation.

This service on the Texas border will shortly lose a number of valuable inspectors. T.E. Hagan and W.W. Maxwell, Jr., will shortly leave to complete their courses in the Texas A. and M. College. J.C. Hamlin will leave about the 15th of September to take up post graduate work in the University of Ohio, and A.C. Mason has been drafted. The vacancies caused by these changes will have to be filled. H.H. Willis, who has had considerable experience under the Board in the potato and port inspection service has been reemployed effective September 1, and will be stationed at El Paso. The pathological service of the Board also loses two trained experts, namely G.W. Martin, who has been assigned to the Reserve Officers' Training Corps and will probably ultimately receive a commission, and John Monteith, Jr., who has already received a commission as second lieutenant in the Officers' Reserve Corps. Both are now stationed at Fort Meyer, Va.

GIPSY MOTH AND BROWN-TAIL MOTH INVESTIGATIONS.

A. F. Burgess, Entomologist in Charge.

D.M. Rogers in charge of Gipsy Moth quarantine and inspection work has moved his office from No. 43 Tremont Street, Boston, Mass., to the Boston Custom House, effective September 1, 1917.

FOREST ENTOMOLOGY

A.D. Hopkins, Forest Entomologist.

T.E. Snyder returned to Washington on July 31 from a trip through the Southern, southwestern Pacific coast and Rocky Mountain States. On this trip insects injurious to forest products were investigated. Special effort was made to collect termites and data on the biology and geographical distribution of our native species. Mr. Snyder left Washington on March 16.

STORED PRODUCT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS.

E.A. Back, Entomologist in charge.

During June and the early part of July, Dr. E.A. Back made an extended trip through the middle West and the South to familiarize himself with the methods of storing grain and with insects affecting warehouses, grain elevators, and flour mills. The establishments of many large concerns were visited in Chicago, Minneapolis, Kansas City, Wichita, Galveston, New Orleans, and elsewhere.

A.B. Duckett has recently returned from a ten days launch cruise down the Potomac River, with camping quarters at Blackistone Island.

TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL FRUIT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS.

C.L. Marlatt, Entomologist in Charge.

W.W. Yothers is spending a few weeks in Washington working up his notes and preparing manuscript for a Farmers' bulletin. He will return to Florida about the 15th of September to organize the new extension work in cooperation with the State Extension Service.

TRUCK CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS.

F. H. Chittenden, Entomologist in Charge.

H.O. Marsh is temporarily stationed in New Jersey.

Marion R. Smith, Plymouth, Ind., will visit Washington, D.C. for consultation.

Charles E. Smith, Muscatine, Iowa., will probably visit Washington, D.C. for consultation.

It is planned to send Marion R. Smith and Charles E. Smith to stations in the Gulf Region during the winter and spring.

CEREAL AND FORAGE INSECT INVESTIGATIONS.

W. R. Walton, Entomologist in Charge.

D.J. Caffrey has been transferred from Tempe, Arizona and placed in charge of the Hagerstown, Md. laboratory.

H.L. Dozier, a graduate of the University of South Carolina and the University of Florida, has been appointed scientific assistant and detailed to the Tempe, Ariz. station to fill the vacancy caused by the transfer of D.J. Caffrey.

J.A. Hyslop, formerly in charge of the Hagerstown, Md. field laboratory, has been transferred to the Bureau Extension Work.

H.L.Parker, formerly stationed at Hagerstown, Md., has resigned from the service to enter a military training camp.

G.W.Barber, formerly stationed at Wellington, Kans., has been detailed to assist D.J.Caffrey at the Hagerstown, Md. laboratory.

NEWS ITEMS FROM THE TEMPE, ARIZ. LABORATORY.

Tempe, Arizona, August 18, 1917.

During the past month V.I.Wildermuth has been making an extended insect survey through the northern part of Arizona. He has been accompanied, for a portion of the time, by Dr. O.C.Bartlett, Assistant State Entomologist.

Third-instar larvae of Laphygma frugiperda have been observed feeding on the tassels of field corn. The species is making its appearance about two weeks later than in 1916.

Heliothis obsoleta larvae are much more numerous in alfalfa than in previous years. Their presence in alfalfa is probably largely due to the fact that the species is predaceous on the larvae and pupae of Eurymus.

Larvae of Prodenia ornithogalli have been very numerous in alfalfa and corn, but no serious damage has been reported owing to the fact that the wilt disease has made its appearance and greatly reduced the numbers of the larvae.

The threatened outbreak of Eurymus in the Salt River Valley of Arizona and in the Imperial Valley of California has been checked by the wilt disease. Unusually moist conditions in these localities, supplemented by the use of recommended cultural methods, have contributed to the check of the species.

Stictocephala festina is doing its usual amount of damage and is particularly numerous in alfalfa.

Dr. W.M.Wheeler of Bussey Institution; Prof. J.C.Bradley of Cornell and Prof. C.L. Bequaret of the American Museum of Natural History spent about a week in this vicinity, collecting material, and were frequent visitors at the laboratory.

D.J.Caffrey,
Scientific Assistant,
Acting in Charge.

